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CURBS ON CIA DOMESTIC SPYING TO BE LIFTED
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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SOON AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON FROM A THANKSGIVING VACATION, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF FOUR PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE CIA AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

REAGAN PLANS TO SIGN AN EXECUTIVE ORDER LOOSENING THE RESTRICTIONS JIMMY CARTER PLACED ON THE CIA IN 1978 TO PREVENT IT FROM COMMITTING DOMESTIC SPYING AND INVASION OF PRIVACY ABUSES DOCUMENTED BY A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION AND A SENATE COMMITTEE.

THE ORDER HAS GONE THROUGH AT LEAST FOUR DRAFTS, AND THE LEAK OF THE THIRD ONE SPARKED VIGOROUS OPPOSITION FROM THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES. IT WAS DENOUNCED BY BOTH CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS ON THE SENATE PANEL AND BY THE DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

AS A RESULT OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE, THE ADMINISTRATION REVISED THE PROPOSAL, APPARENTLY WATERING DOWN THE MOST PROVOCATIVE SECTION -- ONE ALLOWING THE CIA TO SPY ON AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND TO INFILTRATE AND INFLUENCE DOMESTIC GROUPS.

ONE SENATE SOURCE SAID THE REASON THE ORDER HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED UNTIL NOW IS THAT REAGAN HAS NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THE FINAL PROVISIONS BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER RICHARD ALLEN, WHO HAS BEEN TIED UP DEFENDING HIMSELF AGAINST ALLEGATIONS HE IMPROPERLY RECEIVED GIFTS FROM JAPANESE JOURNALISTS.

BESIDES ALLOWING THE CIA TO ENGAGE IN LEGAL DOMESTIC SPYING FOR THE FIRST TIME AND TO INFILTRATE DOMESTIC GROUPS, THE THIRD DRAFT -- WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OR MAY YET BE MODIFIED -- WOULD:

--ALLOW THE CIA TO CONDUCT CERTAIN COVERT OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES INSTEAD OF ONLY ABROAD, OPEN MAIL WITHOUT A WARRANT AND WORK WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

THESE ACTIONS PRESUMABLY COULD INVOLVE ONLY AMERICANS BELIEVED TO BE TARGETS OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OR INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, NOT ANY AMERICANS AT RANDOM.

--AUTHORIZE THE CIA TO COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON U.S. CITIZENS WHO ARE NOT THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION, AND PERMIT THE AGENCY TO GAIN ACCESS TO BANK, MEDICAL AND TELEPHONE RECORDS. THESE ACTIONS MAY REQUIRE COURT ORDERS OR WARRANTS.

--GIVE THE CIA DIRECTOR AN EQUAL ROLE WITH THE FBI DIRECTOR IN DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE IS CONCERNED.